

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 03300 290959Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /072 W

-----110123 291002Z /21

O P 290905Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7639

INFO CINCPAC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3300

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJECT: DAOUD'S LAST HOURS

1. ACCORDING TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE A RELIABLE EYEWITNESS (ONE OF THE ONLY TWO SURVIVORS OF THE HORROR SCENE DESCRIBED), PRESIDENT DAOUD, HIS BROTHER MOHAMMAD NAIM, AND APPROXIMATELY 29 OTHER PERSONS, INCLUDING DAOUD'S THREE SONS, THEIR WIVES AND SOME OF HIS GRANDCHILDREN, WERE EXECUTED IN THEIR HOUSE WITHIN THE PALACE GROUNDS ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 28. (WE PRESUME THAT THE WIVES OF DAOUD AND NAIM WERE ALSO IN THE GROUP.) ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT DAOUD WAS REPEATEDLY URGED TO SWEAR LOYALTY TO THE NATIONAL MILITARY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (NMRC), BUT HE REFUSED.

2. TO EXERT MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON DAOUD THE COUP FORCES MADE HIM AND NAIM WITNESS THE EXECUTION OF THEIR FAMILIES BY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 03300 290959Z

SUBMACHINE GUNS AT ABOUT 0400 OR 0430 ON THE MORNING OF FRIDAY, APRIL 28 (THE REPORT DID NOT CONTAIN INFORMATION ON EXACTLY WHEN DAOUD AND HIS FAMILY HAD ACTUALLY FALLEN INTO THE INSURGENTS' HANDS). AT 0800, A MILITARY OFFICER ARRIVED AND MADE A LAST OFFER TO DAOUD AND NAIM, BUT THE FORMER PRESIDENT STILL REFUSED. HE AND HIS BROTHER WERE THEN SUMMARILY EXECUTED BY SUBMACHINE GUN FIRE.

3. ACCORDING TO A SEPARATE REPORT FROM A CANADIAN DOCTOR, DAOUD'S WIFE, BILQIS (WHO WAS ALSO THE SISTER OF EXILED KING ZAHIR SHAH) WAS BROUGHT INTO JAMHURIAT HOSPITAL DURING THE NIGHT OF APRIL 27. SHE HAD MASSIVE CHEST AND ABDOMINAL GUNSHOT WOUNDS, AND PASSED AWAY SHORTLY AFTER ADMISSION. TWO OF DAOUD'S GRANDCHILDREN ARE STILL BEING TREATED IN THE ORTHOPEDIC WARD FOR GUNSHOT WOUNDS.

4. THE FIRST REPORT CONTAINS AN ADDITIONAL ENIGMATIC DETAIL: DURING THE FINAL CONFRONTATION WITH DAOUD AT 0800, A "DIPLOMATIC CAR," A PHRASE WHICH MOST AFGHANS WOULD INTERPRET AS "BELONGING TO A FOREIGN EMBASSY", WAS STANDING OUTSIDE THE DAOUD RESIDENCE. WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS -- ALL UNVERIFIED AS YET -- OF SOVIET PERSONNEL BEING SIGHTED WITH COUP OFFICERS.

5. COMMENT: THIS VERSION OF DAOUD'S DEATH TRACKS WITH THE NEW REGIME'S SUBSEQUENT FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE FORMER LEADER HAD TO BE KILLED BECAUSE HE WOULD NOT SUBMIT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE NMRC. THE BLOODY DETAILS, HOWEVER, WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED. IF THIS STORY IS TRUE -- AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT IT CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF THIS VIOLENT SOCIETY -- WE ARE PROVIDED WITH A VIVID ILLUSTRATION OF HOW VENOMOUS WAS THE HATRED OF THE COUP LEADERS AGAINST THE "NADIR SHAH" YAHYA KHEL CLAN OF MOHAMMAD-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 03300 290959Z

ZAI FAMILY. ALSO, THIS IS THE SUBBORN WAY WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED DAOUD TO RESIST TO THE END.
ELIOT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, EXECUTIONS, ALLEGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL03300
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780183-0848
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978042/aaaaabfg.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a876bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2856824
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAOUD'S LAST HOURS
TAGS: PINT, PORS, AF, UR, NMRC, (DAOUD, MOHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a876bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014